

15 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. WHITE POWDER SCARES COST LAW ENFORCEMENT TIME, MONEY: *"Firefighters and federal agents have responded to more than 30,000 incidents involving suspicious powders, liquids or chemicals since 2001 in what authorities say is the terrifying legacy of the anthrax attacks after 9/11."*

2. NEW STUDY FINDS MAJOR SHORTCOMINGS IN HOSPITAL READINESS FOR RADIOLOGICAL TERRORISM: *"The findings of a new study published today in the American Medical Association's (AMA) Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness journal found that emergency department physicians and nurses are deeply concerned about the ability of the nation's hospitals to deal with the medical implications of a radioactive dirty bomb or other terrorist attacks involving radioactive materials."*

3. GE SCIENTISTS DEVELOP BATTERY-FREE, MULTI-DETECTION WIRELESS SENSORS: *Among the possible uses are "New security sensors that more effectively can detect dangerous chemical and biological threats" and "portable vaccine manufacturing, ensuring the purity of a vaccine manufactured on-site during an emergency response to a flu outbreak or other potential pandemic."*

4. BU [BOSTON UNIVERSITY] BIOTERROR LAB WORKERS FACE RIGOROUS CHECKS: *"Scientists hired to work at Boston University's new bioterrorism laboratory will have to undergo a rigorous background check that will include psychological testing and a review of their financial records."*

5. HAPSITE CHEMICAL ID SYSTEM A BOOST FOR INFICON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLACES \$1.65M ORDER: *"The firm, which develops and manufactures a variety of instruments, sensors, and software, announced on that day an order for its HAPSITE Chemical Identification System that extends an ongoing relationship with the Department of Defense."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

WHITE POWDER SCARES COST LAW ENFORCEMENT TIME, MONEY

By Mimi Hall

USA Today

October 13, 2008

"Firefighters and federal agents have responded to more than 30,000 incidents involving suspicious powders, liquids or chemicals since 2001 in what authorities say is the terrifying legacy of the anthrax attacks after 9/11."

"The FBI, which is called when a threatening note is found or when it otherwise appears a

crime may have been committed, looked into more than 900 biological incidents from January 2007 to August 2008, "the majority of those incidents being white powder letters," spokesman Richard Kolko says."

The full article can be found at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-12-powder_N.htm

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NEW STUDY FINDS MAJOR SHORTCOMINGS IN HOSPITAL READINESS FOR RADIOLOGICAL TERRORISM

American Medical Association News Release
October 13, 2008

"The findings of a new study published today in the American Medical Association's (AMA) Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness journal found that emergency department physicians and nurses are deeply concerned about the ability of the nation's hospitals to deal with the medical implications of a radioactive dirty bomb or other terrorist attacks involving radioactive materials."

"Researchers conducted a series of 10 focus groups with emergency department physicians and nurses in hospitals in three U.S. regions – southeast, northeast and the west. Study participants discussed a hypothetical "dirty bomb" scenario and the treatment of patients affected by such an attack. Participants consistently expressed the view that medical professionals, emergency departments, and hospital facilities are not sufficiently prepared to respond effectively to a radiological attack. Key concerns of physicians and nurses include the possibility of the hospital being overwhelmed with patients, safety of loved ones, potential staff shortages, risks for hospital personnel, and a general lack of familiarity with radiation safety and treatment issues."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/20165.html>

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GE SCIENTISTS DEVELOP BATTERY-FREE, MULTI-DETECTION WIRELESS SENSORS

Nano Techwire.com
October 15, 2008

"GE Global Research, the technology development arm of the General Electric Company, today announced a battery-free, multi-detection radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensing platform that could enable a wide range of low cost wireless sensing products in healthcare, security, food packaging, water treatment and pollution prevention. GE's unique RFID sensors are built on traditional RFID tags.

This "first-of-its-kind" sensing platform, in which a single sensor can provide a highly

selective response to multiple chemicals under variable conditions, operates without a battery. GE's sensor technology overcomes limitations in today's sensors such as inadequate response selectivity and the need for an on-board power source. Without a battery, new sensors can be designed to be smaller than a penny and manufactured at very low cost. This could enable many exciting product applications, including:

- * New security sensors that more effectively can detect dangerous chemical and biological threats
- * In-the-field water purification monitoring, checking for water impurities
- * Food and beverage safety monitoring, measuring the freshness of goods in transport or that are stored in the refrigerator at home
- * Portable vaccine manufacturing, ensuring the purity of a vaccine manufactured on-site during an emergency response to a flu outbreak or other potential pandemic.
- * Emissions monitoring at power plants

The full article can be found at: <http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=6758>

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BU [BOSTON UNIVERSITY] BIOTERROR LAB WORKERS FACE RIGOROUS CHECKS

WBZTV.com

October 14, 2008

"Scientists hired to work at Boston University's new bioterrorism laboratory will have to undergo a rigorous background check that will include psychological testing and a review of their financial records.

BU vice president for operations Gary Nicksa tells The Boston Globe that the purpose of the checks is to spot researchers who may be susceptible to stress-related mistakes or extortion. The checks will be even more rigorous than current federal standards."

The full article can be found at: <http://wbztv.com/local/bu.bioterrorism.lab.2.839823.html>

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HAPSITE CHEMICAL ID SYSTEM A BOOST FOR INFICON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLACES \$1.65M ORDER

Your Defence News

October 14, 2008

"The firm, which develops and manufactures a variety of instruments, sensors, and software, announced on that day an order for its HAPSITE Chemical Identification System that extends an ongoing relationship with the Department of Defense.

The order is worth \$1.65 million. Inficon's HAPSITE system is a portable product that

provides on-site detection and analysis of toxic chemicals in air, soil, and water."

The full article can be found at: http://www.yourdefencenews.com/news_item.php?newsID=12723

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